



Allandale Neighbor

Oct 2007
Vol 22, Issue 6

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 3,100 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANA to Host Masquerade Ball at Caswell House—October 27

Laura Slaughter

Join in the fun as ANA hosts an evening of dancing, delectable treats, and an eclectic assortment of auction items from around Austin. Headlining the evening's events we present the LeRoi Brothers, winners of the "Best Roots Rock Band" awarded by the *Austin Chronicle* reader's poll. Renowned for outstanding vocals and "probably the finest drummer Texas has to offer" (Cub Koda, All Music Guide), this band plays everything from blues to rockabilly to Cajun to country to rock & roll.

Continued on page 22

Membership has Its Privileges

Allan McMurtry

We need your help. Thousands of hours of volunteer work have gone into the fight against the Super Discount Center at Northcross (see "Update on the Lawsuit" on page 7). Though you might not be able to volunteer your time, you can help:

JOIN ANA NOW

This is not a small-time lawsuit, hastily put before the homeowners of Allandale; it is the real deal.

This lawsuit currently restrains construction of the supercenter and it's all that stands in the way of about 25,000 to 30,000 vehicle trips a day and the

virtual closing of the Burnet and Anderson intersection. Oh, and it's also critical to your housing values, schools, shopping along Burnet and Anderson, and general safety of your family. Those tens of thousands of cars a day are going somewhere, and we're the closest neighborhood.

Our traffic analysis indicates that nobody will be immune from the impacts of the colossal volume of cars streaming to and from this ever-changing, elephantine structure. The goal is to attract traffic to the store. That's how they make money.

We're looking for 1,000 members to join us, not just in this fight, but to

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Profiles on AOMA, Light Bulb Shop, Birds Barbershop and Next-To-New as well as our regular articles.

**The next EC meeting
is on October 25.
The Masquerade Ball
is on October 27!**

control noise from MoPac, to manage flooding on Shoal Creek, to monitor city codes, to do beautification projects, to donate money to schools, and to provide entertainment for you and your family at the 4th of July Parade, the Allandale Picnic, the Tyke and Bike Ride.

We're not building a neighborhood, you've done that; we're preserving it. Reach out a hand—we can use it. ♦

**INFORMATION ON HOW
TO JOIN ANA
IS ON THE BACK PAGE**

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www.allandalereporter.org

EDITORS Tom Linehan, Cathy Yang
ADVERTISING Cathy Savage, 680-6281
LAYOUT, DESIGN allandaleads@gmail.com
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CONTACT INFORMATION
Allandale Neighbor,
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT Tom Linehan
VICE PRESIDENT Michael Bomba
TREASURER Joe Reynolds
SECRETARY Allan McMurtry
MEMBERS Margie Gordon, Dan Jones,
Paulette Kern, Donna Beth
McCormick, Mary Jean Mateus,
George Roman, and Laura
Slaughter

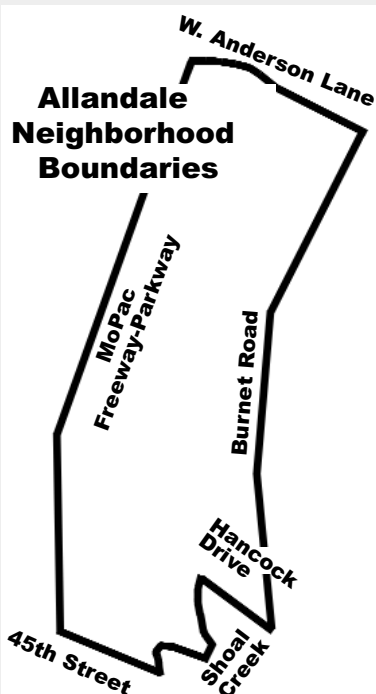
ANA General Meetings are held March and
September on the fourth Thursday. The Executive
Committee will meet August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the
Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive, and there-
after, every month, on the fourth Thursday. Meetings
are open to the public.

Committees

BEAUTIFICATION Linnea Anderson
BYLAWS Allan McMurtry
COMMUNICATIONS Tom Linehan
FUNDRAISING Joe Reynolds
MEMBERSHIP Joe Reynolds
NOMINATING Allan McMurtry
PLANNING Kerry Kimbrough,
Steven Zettner

Allandale Police District Representative

David Crowder, 974-5545,
david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us



ANA President's Letter: What Do I Get With My Membership

Tom Linehan

In the last month or so we've been working on a budget, an initiative started by ANA's Treasurer Joe Reynolds. Because we've had so few expenses, it had generally worked for the ANA's Executive Committee to approve or deny expenses as requests came in the monthly EC meetings. Our newsletter is both our biggest expense and our biggest revenue source, costing us approximately \$14,400 per year to print and distribute and bringing in approximately \$16,000 per year for advertising.

Our next biggest expense is the annual 4th of July Parade, which costs about \$800. We also contribute \$500 each to Gullett Elementary and Lamar Middle School. In recent years, we added website hosting for the Allandale Reporter (\$149) and Directors and Officers' Insurance (\$1,500). Member-

ship dues, our second largest source of revenue, will bring in an estimated \$4,500 next year.

We are finding that working the finances from meeting to meeting is not a smart way to do things. Having a budget will help us anticipate revenue and expenses and make sure we're operating in the black. A budget also lets us think ahead. In the past year, ANA has held two very successful events: Celebrate Allandale and the Tyke and Bike Ride; and we have added a third, the Allandale Masquerade Ball on Oct 27.

The *Allandale Neighbor* is published and distributed bimonthly by the ANA. For more information contact Cathy Savage at 680-6281 or allandaleads@gmail.com.

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Clarification:

In the August Issue of *Allandale Neighbor*, The Allandale Condominiums (aka The Allandale) is the official name of the condominiums on the site of Summerfield Suites Hotel. Also, there is no closure date set for the Hotel Suites portion. There are eleven buildings, of which three are closed for conversion; some condos are almost complete and others are under construction.



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Clearly, the biggest expense this year has been the lawsuit ANA filed against the City regarding approval of a super-center at Northcross. Our Fundraising Committee has done a pretty good job of raising monies through the events to pay the legal expenses for this lawsuit. We are not anticipating more lawsuits but we intend to continue these events and having a budget will help us plan accordingly.

Here is where you come in. I've been asked a couple of times in the last few months what Allandale residents get by becoming members of the Allandale Neighborhood Association. The first time I was asked I had to pause to think about it. You don't get anything more than your neighbor who doesn't pay to be a member other than feeling like you did the right thing and a right to vote in the general assembly meetings. Everyone gets this newsletter and everyone and their dog are invited to the annual parade.

Well, we have no plans of changing that. We're not going to create an ANA

membership card that you bring to Bullard and White Rock every 4th of July to get into the parade. Instead, I'll just tell you the benefits bestowed upon all Allandale residents and why your annual membership (currently \$10, possibly increasing to \$15) is important to the neighborhood association.

We are all volunteers. No one on the EC gets paid, and nor do any of the neighbors who volunteer for the many committees—Zoning, Beautification, Planning, Fundraising, Nominations, Bylaws, and Communication—that look out for Allandale's interests. Paying dues is a sign of appreciation. It tells our neighbors that you support our efforts.

There is strength in numbers, and Allandale needs all the support it can get to continue addressing some of the issues we confront. Having 3,000 households paying dues says a whole lot more about neighborhood support than 300 households. Many neighborhoods don't have the worries we do. We have some nice lots that are

McMansion bait; Burnet Road and Anderson Lane are transit corridors—it's where the city is pushing for densification; and our property values are climbing faster than our incomes.

Neighbors looking out for neighbors and sense of community are what you get for your membership. Fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter or pay online at our website: www.allandalereporter.org. Show your support. We are volunteers working to build and preserve the Allandale community. ❖



Masquerade Ball Oct. 27!

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Allandale General Meeting: September 27, 2007 Minutes

Katie Hansen

Executive committee members in attendance: Brent Sjolseth, Tom Linehan, Katie Hansen, Allan McMurtry, Joe Reynolds, Laura Slaughter, Dan Jones, Donna Beth McCormick.

Minutes from the March General Meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer report: Joe Reynolds

Deposit accounts	\$18,849.24
Starting balance	
Dec 6 2006:	\$31,614.09
Current fundraising:	\$17,000
Masquerade ball	\$10,000
NSCNA	\$2,000
Appeal	\$5,000
Further Legal expenses:	\$4,000
Expected ending balance:	\$31,849.24

George Roman makes a motion to approve the financial statements. Katie Hansen seconds. Passes.

Membership Committee: Tom Linehan

Membership dues have not been raised in many years. Tom Linehan would like to raise the membership fees to \$15 for general membership. The senior membership dues will remain at \$7.

There was much discussion regarding what the ANA would use the increase

in funds for. The ANA has increased the number of community building events, and a portion of the membership dues would be used to support these events. In addition, the development pressure our neighborhood is under makes it prudent to have a financial reserve in case we need be able to make a legal response in the future.

Jim Bryce makes a motion to approve increasing membership fees from \$10 to \$15. Joe Reynolds seconds it. Passes.

Dan Jones wonders if maybe we should have memberships based on the individual rather than the family. Spouses may have different names and it is difficult to know who is a member.

White Rock Flooding Issue:

Katie Hansen

The ANA had appointed a committee to work with the City of Austin on the proposed bond solution to the flooding problems near White Rock and Bull Creek. The committee chair is Mark Price; other committee members are John Panak and Kurt Zinsemeyer. A blog has been created to update neighbors on the status of this project

and can be accessed through the Allandale Reporter website. Based on neighbors' concerns that the project would not be adequate to handle the current water flow, the City of Austin is re-evaluating and will get back with the committee.

Bike Lanes for Steck Avenue

The ANA has been asked for support regarding the addition of bikes lanes to Steck Ave. The road would be reduced to two lanes from Burnet to Shoal Creek.

Jim Bryce makes a motion to support NSCA initiative. Seconded by Linda Huff.


Steck traffic is close to 12K VTD. Hancock is about 9K.

Allan McMurtry thinks that Steck will pick up a portion of the Wal-Mart traffic.


Katie Hansen said that with Austin growing to more than 2 million people by 2030, we need to figure out how to mitigate the effects of traffic and encourage alternate modes of transportation. Motion passes 24 to 4.

Continued on page 6

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General Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 5

Restoration of Big Red: Brent Sjolseth

Big Red is the old vintage fire truck used in the Allandale parade. It has Allandale on the side. The president of the Austin Fire Department Museum called Brent and asked if we would help with fundraising. A firefighter in Austin has agreed to do the restoration at cost, with labor for free. It will probably run about \$10-\$20K. The president of the Austin Fire Museum would like the ANA to initiate some fundraising on the order of a few thousand dollars to go toward restoration of Big Red. Allandale would have priority for getting the fire truck for our events and neighbors would get discounts for birthday parties.

Northcross Committee:

Allan McMurtry

Our attorneys are waiting for stipulations from opposition's legal team setting the facts for the case. Once this is

all done, we will file a declaratory judgment. It must be filed 45 days before the start of trial on November 13th. It will be filed soon.

Our main issue is to file a declaratory judgment to interpret the ordinance as it stands in the City of Austin. We believe that the ordinance should have triggered a public hearing. All we are asking for is a public hearing based on the law. If the judge agrees, then Wal-Mart/Lincoln will have to file a new site plan.

Draft Budget for 2007-2008:

Joe Reynolds

This is up for discussion and will be voted on at a later date.

Zoning Committee: Paulette Kern

Update is postponed, as Paulette Kern is a grandmother! Congratulations Paulette!

Masquerade Ball: Laura Slaughter

The ANA is selling tickets for \$50 apiece. It is at the Caswell House. Russell's Bakery will be doing all the snacks. There will be a Silent Auction

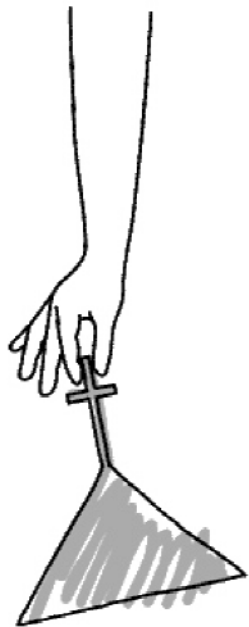
(organized by Marlene Meador) from many neighborhood establishments who have donated to the cause. See the Allandale Reporter website for more information on items up for auction. Mary Jean Mateus has gotten the LeRoi Brothers for entertainment.

Web hosting: Tom Linehan

Web hosting cost \$149.50/year for the Allandale Reporter website. Joe Reynolds moves that we approve funds. Katie Hansen seconds. Passes.

The ANA bylaws require that the nominating committee provide a slate for the elections. However, our bylaws also provide for us to elect people from the floor. The nominating committee talked to nearly 40 people and came up with the following slate: Tom Linehan for president, Michael Bomba for Vice President, Allan McMurtry for secretary, and Joe Reynolds for treasurer.

Other recommendations for EC members: Mary Jean Mateus, Donna Beth McCormick, Dan Jones, Laura Slaughter, George Roman, and Margie Garden.



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Nominations from the floor. None.
Jim Bryce recommends that we accept the entire slate proposed by the nominations committee, seconded by Marlene Meador. Passes unanimously.

Tom Linehan adjourns the meeting. ❖

Update on the Lawsuit

Allan McMurtry

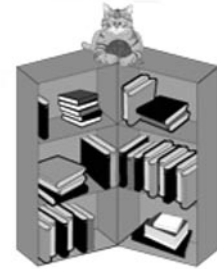
On September 5, with attorneys representing Allandale, Lincoln Properties, and the City of Austin present, I was deposed regarding damages that this development would cause to the neighborhood. This deposition is part of Lincoln's findings of facts in the case for the November 13 trial. (See "Membership has its Privileges" on page 1.)

As part of that lawsuit, we were given the data used to calculate the traffic impact, which we had requested repeatedly since February. This suit is your voice speaking to the City. It is critical that we win the right to public access to the records and decisions of the City of Austin and that we have a say in the building of the City, as it impacts us, our families, and our property.

Separately, with a goal to make that trial moot, the ANA filed a declaratory judgment with the 100th District Court asking the judge to rule that a public hearing is required on the site plan and that the City did not enforce its own ordinance on that account. The hearing is expected in late October or early November.

In addition to nullifying the November 13th trial, a ruling in our favor would invalidate the current site plan and require Lincoln Properties to

file a new site plan under the "Big Box Ordinance" and the Commercial Design Standards. These ordinances, and the judge's ruling, would give us each a chance to present our facts to the City Council and Planning Commission in an open forum. ❖



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**ANA's Masquerade Ball
will be held on October 27.
See page 23 for details!**

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Deed Restrictions: Do you know yours?

Allan McMurtry/Paulette Kern

Most of you reading this article live in one of Allandale's 40 subdivisions with deed restrictions. Deed restrictions are a private contract among people who live within a set subdivision boundary defined by a plat. Both the plat and the deed restrictions are filed with the county clerk's office, which is located on Airport Boulevard just north of 51st Street.

There is quite a bit of resubdividing going on in our neighborhood, especially the Shoalmont and Hancock areas. Many deed restrictions prohibit subdividing. However, because there is no enforcement entity for deed restrictions, it is up to those living in the immediate area to contact the property owners and remind them of the restrictions.

There is a proper channel to get approval from neighbors to obtain an exception to restrictions on the proper-

ty, but many builders don't bother, so the only channel left is getting a lawyer involved. If neighbors do not object to a breach in deed restrictions in a timely manner,

there are future ramifications.

The restrictions originally set out the method by which people can enjoy their property. In Allandale, they predominantly require single-family residential use, they can limit heights and setbacks of buildings from the front street and from adjacent properties. They can also speak to parking, accessory buildings, abandoned cars, type of construction, and other uses. Allandale's restrictions generally date between the late 1930s



Example of recent house construction in Allandale.

and the mid-1960s.

The ANA is identifying every subdivision within Allandale by name, page, and volume number for the plat and the deed restrictions. There are over 40 subdivisions in Allandale, and when we finish, we'll post a map of the subdivisions on the Allandale Reporter.

Currently, you can look up the name of your subdivision by going the website for the Travis County Appraisal District (<http://www.traviscad.org>) and



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enter the street name and address. The legal description of your lot includes the subdivision name, the block number within the subdivision, and your lot number.

As we begin posting the deed restrictions, you can find out what is allowed on each lot. These restrictions coexist with zoning restrictions to form the accepted uses within Allandale. They also serve as a mutual agreement on permitted activities so each of us is protected against an intrusive misuse.

This is a daunting task, so we are sending you an SOS. If you have or can get a copy of the deed restrictions on your property when you bought it, please send a copy to the ANA at PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766, Attention: Zoning Committee. Please include your address and when you bought the property. With your help, we will compile a library to help neighbors be aware of what is appropriate in each area. Eventually, we'd like to make a copy of the restrictions available on our Allandale website (www.allandalereporter.org).

Deed restrictions on properties help maintain the integrity of our neighborhood—and have helped make it a highly desirable place to live and raise our families. Knowledge is power, so know your property requirements. ♦

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What's Going on in the Austin Area Real Estate Market

Danny Gallant/Robin Senor

Over the last few months, much has transpired in the real estate world across the country. Formerly hot markets have cooled, foreclosures have risen, and the blows to the real estate industry are affecting financial markets worldwide. It's easy, without putting things into perspective, to think that even the local real estate market could be headed for real trouble. But a more careful look at what has led to this scenario in the national market, and at what is happening in our local market, leads to a different conclusion.

As with any financial market, real estate has a natural ebb and flow. After sustained periods of drastic growth, expect that markets will come down eventually. This is what has happened nationally over the last few years: many markets rose drastically, seeing increases of 50% in a few years' time.

Unfortunately, this meteoric rise in housing meant that in many markets across the country, affordability well outpaced the median income. Many people could not afford to buy in their market, so lenders and investors adopted subprime lending practices to provide loans to individuals who couldn't qualify otherwise. But as adjustable rates rose, many homeowners who barely qualified could no longer afford their housing payments.

Worse, with prices having dropped even slightly—

around 5–10% nationally—these homes became worth considerably less than what the owners owed because of their ever-growing interest. And so the inevitable end to this strategy came to pass: one in five people nationally lost their homes, and the market as a whole suffered.

Although Central Texas hasn't been unaffected by these market swings, it has come out considerably less scathed than other parts of the country for several reasons: in the past few years, our median home price had not risen as quickly or as steeply as other cities, and even between September '06 and '07 it still went up 5.8%.

Additionally, our local economy remains strong, and there is still solid migration into the Austin area. As a result, our foreclosure rates are lower than the national average. Nevertheless, more homes were on the market in mid-September than in mid-August and there is less general activity. But on the whole, the local real estate market remains healthy. ♦

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Beautification: Fall 2007 Events

Linnea Anderson

Preparing Your Yard for Winter

October 22, 5-6:30 PM, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock, Austin, TX, www.shoalcreeknursery.com

Meet Sam Moore and the rest of the professional staff at Shoal Creek Nursery for a talk about preparing for winter and a tour of the facility. Some of you may know Sam from working with his mom at Howard's Nursery. Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions for the experts!

Park Clean-Up with Austin Parks Foundation

Saturday, Nov. 10, 9-11 AM, www.austinparksfoundation.org. Meet at the corner of Greenlawn and Great Northern to get started.

Join your neighbors to clean up Far West Dam and the Great Northern Hike n' Bike Trail. Volunteers will remove debris, trim branches, and fix damage from heavy rains. Everyone is welcome. Great for groups!

All ages are welcome. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and remember the terrain is uneven. Difficulty: Easy. Please contact organizer if you can help with trimming branches and collecting debris.

Pave the way to Candy Cane Lane

December 1, 2-4 PM (Confirm prior to 11/12). Corner of Greenlawn and Great Northern

Giant candy canes leaning in front yards are a sure sign the holiday season is upon Allandale once again.

Over 40 years ago, a group of neighbors got together to make candy cane lawn art for the December holidays. "Candy Cane Lane" has become an Allandale tradition. Join us in a celebration of these charming, zero-calorie confections that are a seasonal testimonial to Allandale neighborliness.

Supplies will be on hand to refurbish candy canes and tools will be available for creating a pipe and chain anchor to keep your candy cane in place.

Please contact me before Monday, Nov 12, to ensure that we have supplies for everyone.

Contact Linnea Anderson for details, 750-8902 or linnea.anderson@altadvisors.com ❖

Keeping Up with Progress on the White Rock Flooding Project

Tom Linehan

At the August EC meeting, representatives from the City's public works department provided a presentation on the White Rock Flooding Project. White Rock Drive is the rated as the 3rd worst



Flooding on White Rock Drive.

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flooding area in the City and \$8.3 million has been set aside to address it. There were a lot of unanswered questions about the project that surfaced in the meeting.

Subsequently, a committee headed up by Allandale resident Mark Price was formed to follow up on and work with the city on the project. Thanks to Mark and the committee members for their involvement. Mark has put together a blog to keep us current on where things stand with the project. You can see headlines of the latest postings on the right side of this website under the heading "ANA Drainage Committee." ❖

Union Pacific— Idling Trains and More

Kay Newell, Allandale, MoNAC Secretary

What follows is information provided by ASA Rail to correct things that have been inferred on the Allandale newsgroup about the Union Pacific (UP) line along Mopac.

The State Rail Plan came out a couple of years ago. It is really for the purpose of quantifying what the rail needs in the state are. It was useful in passing the Rail Relocation Fund Bill and constitutional amendment and illustrates the amount of money needed throughout the state for rail projects.

It's not really any kind of design—only a recap of various other projects rolling up all the costs to give a big picture of the needs. Unfortunately, with all the anti-transportation rhetoric in the last legislative session, there was virtually no funding for the Rail Relocation Fund that we are hoping to use to move the Union Pacific (UP) through-freight off the "Mopac" line to a new line east of SH-130. If people want to impact the trains idling on the siding north of 2222, they need to urge their legislators to appropriate money or dedicate funding sources to this fund so we can move forward with the relocation. I don't see anything happening until then.

Some points:

We have never considered a commuter rail station at 2222/Mopac. Our website and all our plans are very clear that we are anticipating nearby stations at Braker Lane and at 35th Street.

There hasn't been any double track between 2222 & Town Lake in the 130 years the tracks have been there. The work that was done several years ago in the area was when UP upgraded the tracks to heavier, welded rails and replaced the wood ties with concrete ones. It was a major, costly upgrade but did not "remove" any tracks.

Sidings (such as the one north of 2222) have many uses. They can be used for a train to stop while it is passed by another train—coming in the same direction or from the other direction. They use them to "park" low priority trains to permit higher priority trains to pass. They can use them to "park" a freight train while waiting for a passenger train (Amtrak) to pass—passenger trains have priority. Because this is the only siding north of way south Austin, it is pretty heavily used for these purposes. If they had other double track sections, there wouldn't be as much use.

Many of the trains coming through here are 100–130 cars in length—a mile to mile and a half. For a siding to be useful, there has to be at least that length of

space (without grade-level crossings & preferably straight) plus whatever they need on the ends for switching and signaling.

Most of the train traffic along Mopac is northbound. UP uses the "Hearne Subdivision" for most of the southbound traffic. This is the line that runs through College Station & Giddings and ties into the US-90/IH-10 tracks that enter San Antonio from the east. By running their southbound trains along that subdivision and northbound along the "Austin" subdivision through here, they minimize conflicts. There are some southbound trains along Mopac as capacity permits and, obviously, Amtrak moves both northbound and southbound through here. I've made sure that we reserve enough right-of-way to double track from 2222 to Town Lake

To double track this will be expensive—the existing tracks have to be moved to the side of the right-of-way from the center but it is in our plan for commuter rail. Unfortunately, there isn't enough land, the turns are too tight, the bridge over Town Lake is historic, and the topography south of the river (at least until around Oltorf) make it very difficult, if not impossible, to double track the entire line. ❖

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embroidery fashion-design modern mosaics mural-painting
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Call for a Growth Management Policy

Tom Linehan

Central city neighborhoods like Allandale are pushing for a city growth management policy that gives neighborhoods equal influence when it comes to deciding how to accommodate densification.

Some of the underlying issues with the city's current densification trajectory were outlined in a recent *Austin American-Statesman* article, "Neighborhoods and city interests collide over density," by Suzannah Gonzales. It talks about neighborhood reactions to the city's neighborhood planning process, why some neighborhoods feel they've been betrayed by it, and examples of where the city's push for densification and the neighborhoods interest in preserving the character of their neighborhoods collide.

Allandale's Cynthia Keohane has been very active with Austin Neighborhood Council's (ANC's) Growth Management Committee. She helped coordinate and write ANC's "Call to Action to Manage City Growth" that was recently forwarded along to members of the City Council.

It was this call to action that has raised the profile of this very important city-wide concern.

The call to action is for the city to develop a viable growth management policy in conjunction with neighborhoods and other affected stakeholders. I anticipate we will be learning more about it as neighborhoods begin weighing in on how not having such a viable policy is hurting us all. ❖

Starting the Season with a Masquerade Ball and Shopping at Next-To-New

C Yang

In Allandale, it's usually come as you are, but this month the ANA wants you to come as you aren't—to the first Allandale Masquerade Ball.

Masked balls were the highlight of medieval court life as a way to celebrate marriages and other distinguished family and public events. During the Renaissance, Italy moved the celebrations out to the streets in public festivals. By the 17th and 18th centuries, such costumed balls became popular throughout Europe and even Colonial America.

Originally, the masked dress was a true disguise, and guessing identities was part of the fun. Today, getting into costume is half the fun.

Short of making or renting a costume that is fitting for the beautiful Caswell House, where the ANA Masquerade Ball is being held on Saturday, October 27, we have some of the best thrift shops in the area, of which I'd like to highlight for this issue, Next-To-New, which this summer moved into their new, refurbished standalone shop that used to be Harrell's Supply and Service Center.

This was quite a feat for St. David's Episcopal Church, marking close to half a century since this outreach ministry opened its resale shop on Lavaca. The shop moved to Burnet Road in 1989, moving twice before settling in to what should be its permanent home.

Next-To-New's manager, Richard Wood, says the shop was "blessed by the Harrell family, who, looking to retire, offered the store at a reasonable price," one where years of preparation allowed St. David's to seize the opportunity. Richard also thanks the Allandale community for their years of support and said he "wouldn't want to be anywhere else." With over 20 years of retail experience, Richard is thrilled to be able to

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Click on "Join This Group" then
follow instructions.



Next-to-New is located in the former Harrell's Supply building.

stabilize his monthly payments, have a beautiful space to sort and price the consignments and estate items that flow through the door, and display much more of the upscale items the shop gets.

Staffed mostly by volunteers, Next-To-New offers antiques, gently used items, consignments—and maybe a costume idea or two. A couple of weeks ago, I saw some beautifully colored silk Indian saris at a price that was less expensive than renting (whoops, now you'll be able to pick me out).

Next-To-New also holds auctions and does community outreach. From

1989 to 2003, more than \$1.3 million of Next-To-New's proceeds were donated to local charities. Proceeds were also used to support the restoration of St. David's historic downtown sanctuary on Trinity at 7th.

Next-To-New, 5335 Burnet Road, 459-1288, <http://www.next2new.org/> ❖

Learn or be Treated: The AOMA Provides Oriental Medicine in the Neighborhood

Robin Senor

Tucked into the shopping center at the corner of Northcross and Burnet are many hidden Austin gems, not the least of which, the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, or AOMA. This unique school offers a degree program, educational resources

to students and the community, and both student and professional clinics.

The AOMA's sole degree program is a master's degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine—one of only two Oriental medicine schools in Texas and one of fewer than 50 nationwide, accredited for such a program by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, the only such body recognized by the US Department of Education.

During a four- or five-year program of coursework, AOMA master's candidates become skilled in such areas as acupuncture, herbology, biomedical sciences, and other areas. While they complete coursework, students also gain 1,000 hours of clinical training experience. The general public can make appointments with students at a discount, with all work done under close supervision of certified individuals (practitioners).

Graduates are eligible to take national board exams in Oriental Medicine, and accreditation allows them to apply

Continued on page 14



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AMOA in the Neighborhood

Continued from Page 13



AMOA is located at 2700 West Anderson.

for licensure in other states that regulate acupuncture and oriental medicine, such as California and New Mexico.

In addition to its degree program, AOMA offers many additional services and educational resources including informal classes in such disciplines as Tai Chi, Qigong (similar to yoga), and Feng Shui.

AOMA practitioners focus on holistic pain management and treatment of

allergies and more. Most practices available from the professional clinic are also available at the student clinic. The school also maintains a library that is free to students and inexpensive for the public.

The academy dates back to

1993, and has attracted a continually growing interest over the years. Yet true to the Eastern philosophies of balance, AOMA keeps classes small, limiting enrollment to 28 students per class. The school also has a location at 1902 S. Congress.

Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin (AOMA), 2700 West Anderson Lane, Suite 204, 454-1188, www.aoma.edu ❖

The Light Bulb Shop

Tom Linehan

The Light Bulb Shop is right here in Allandale and they can supply you with a bulb for just about anything you have that needs one. Owner Edwin McGary grew up in the area. His grandfather bought a house on Adams Avenue in 1929, right behind the Night Hawk. Edwin tells me it wasn't until 1962 that they paved Anderson Lane. He remembers when Lamar Jr. High opened up 50 years ago and playing against them in football the first year they fielded a team. He promised to look through his photo albums for some old photos of the area.

The first Light Bulb Shop was at the corner of Lamar and St. John's, although Edwin's first business, Lamar Wholesale Supply, opened twenty-six years ago at Lamar and Rundberg. When he needed more space, he moved the Light Bulb Shop to Allandale at the corner of Burnet and White Horse Trail—just north of Lamar Middle School.



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Their website says “See us for any light bulb made” and they sell bulbs for stage and studio lighting, photo lamps for projectors, and bulbs for medical and scientific equipment purchased by places like Seton Hospital and the J.J. Pickle Research Center. Needless to say, it’s the place to go to find bulbs you can’t find anywhere else.

But simple energy-saving household bulbs are probably what they sell most, and that’s what I stopped in the shop for on a Saturday afternoon. Two years ago, energy-saver compact fluorescent lights took up only two shelves at the store; now they occupy an entire wall.

I visited with store manager, Tino Carrejo. He was very friendly. The entire staff is quite helpful, which is a good reason to stop by the Light Bulb



keep you off the ladder.” This bulb, which equals a 60-watt incandescent, will last 10,000 hours compared to 800 hours for a regular bulb. Over the life of the bulb you end up saving \$62.

The new compact fluorescent bulbs not only use less energy, but give off substantially less heat. In a living room like mine with six recessed lights in the ceiling, the heat reduction can make a

big difference. Be sure to let them know if the fixtures you need the bulbs for are connected to a dimmer switch. They

require a different bulb.

No story about the Light Bulb Shop would be complete without referencing the unusual “idea man” sculpture that sits on top of the Light Bulb Shop’s sign. The sculpture was created by Austin-based Blue Genie Art Industries; the same company that has created the pirate sculpture for Atomic Tattoo and the Fran’s sculpture that sits atop Fran’s Hamburgers. Behind it is the Light Bulb Shop’s warehouse. Next-door is the Fixture Shop, which is under separate ownership. Tino says the move to Allandale has worked out very well. They not only gained additional space and parking at the new location but the move has been good for business. Stop by and get enlightened about energy-efficient bulbs. They’re open six days a week.

Light Bulb Shop, 6318 Burnet Rd 453-2852, www.lightbulbshop.net ❖



Edwin and Tino at the Light Bulb Shop.

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- Only visit homes that have the porch light on.
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Get more tips and find out how you can become involved in Red Cross at www.centex.redcross.org.



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NCUA

Birds Barbershop North Grand Opening. September 8, 2007

C Yang

The second Birds Barbershop opened last month in Allandale (the first opened on South Lamar in May 2006). I missed the grand opening dance party at Bird's Barbershop North in mid-September, but it sounded like quite the event.

The barbershop may be known to rock, but it's also known for its suave-cool haircuts and prices, like a Mohawk or Buzzcut for \$15, the Shortcut coming in at \$19, the Ladybird (shampoo, blow dry, and styling) at \$39, and Kidcuts for \$15. Color starts at \$50 and of course, every barbershop has to have its old-fashioned Hot Shave, which Birds offers for \$25.

The grand opening was a celebration, not only for the DJ, roller boogiers, dancers, customers and friends, but also for Allandale, to welcome the kind of business we like to see—a small, fiercely independent shop that happens to



The entrance of Birds Barbershop.

coincide with our style.

According to the Newsweek article written last year that highlighted Birds founders Michael Portman and Jayson Rapaport, there were 350,000 licensed barbers in the U.S..."until the Beatles came along." By the time men returned to getting haircuts regularly, expensive salon cuts were in.

We could have lost this important thread of what Newsweek calls "the American cultural fabric, serving as the unofficial Elks club, where men could gather while they waited for a shave and a cut and discuss the all-important issues of the day, such as who should be playing third base for the Cubs and whether a Mustang or a Corvette was the sweeter ride." That is, until entrepreneurs like Portman and Rapaport came along.

All the more reason to give a warm welcome to Birds. And remember to support local business.

Birds North,
6800 Burnet Rd.,
512-454-1200,
<http://www.birdsbarbershop.com/> ❖

What NOT to Recycle

Martha Stockton

While walking my dog the other day, I saw some blue recycling bins filled to the brim with...non-recyclable items! Plastic yogurt cups, egg cartons, paper juice cartons, and cereal boxes tumbled over the edges.

We're lucky to have curbside recycling in Allandale, but the City of Austin can only recycle certain types of paper, metal, glass, and plastic. If non-recyclable items are placed in your bin, the city trucks will pick them up, but they will need to sort them out later, at great expense to the city.

Many items that the city does not recycle, such as plastic trays and tubs, aluminum food trays, boxboard and other paper, can be taken to Ecology Action on 9th and I-35 (www.ecology-action.org). There is also a blue bin on the north side of Lamar Middle School which takes all kinds of paper, including boxboard and egg cartons. Gullett Elementary School also earns money for the school by recycling office and newspaper collected in the bins in their parking lot on the north side of the school.

Here's a quick primer on what to put (and what NOT to put) in your blue bins.

Paper

Recyclable paper—Newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, envelopes, home office paper, manila envelopes, file folders, paper bags.

Continued on page 18



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What NOT to Recycle

Continued from Page 17

Not recycled by the City—pizza boxes, boxboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, soda cartons), phone books, soiled paper, paper towels, facial and toilet paper, disposable plates and cups, greeting cards, dark colored envelopes and paper, wrapping paper, milk and juice cartons.

Metal

Recyclable metal—aluminum cans (soda cans), tin and steel cans, empty aerosol cans

Not recycled by the City—aluminum foil, coat hangers, paint and solvent containers, scrap metal (nails, screws, gutters, etc.)

Glass

Recyclable glass—glass bottles and jars only

Not recycled by the City—broken glass (unless packaged and labeled), light bulbs, mirrors, window panes, dishes and cups, ornaments

Plastic

Recyclable plastic—only plastic bottles with necks smaller than the bottoms of types #1 or #2 (look at the triangle printed or embossed on the bottom of the bottle), water, soda, juice

bottles, milk jugs, shampoo and conditioner bottles, detergent bottles, bleach and cleaner bottles.

Not recycled by the City—yogurt and margarine tubs; plastic bags and packaging; Styrofoam; microwave trays; disposable plates, cups, and utensils; containers holding bakery items, produce, and take-out food; toys; motor oil bottles; lids; any bottles containing bug spray, weed killer, adhesives, paints, or solvents.

Cardboard

Recyclable cardboard—thick cardboard with a wavy middle layer (must be flattened and cut or folded to 2'x2' and tied together with string, tape or twine), moving boxes, appliance boxes.

Not recycled by the City—pizza boxes, egg cartons, cereal boxes, soda and beer cartons, shoeboxes, toothpaste and toiletry boxes, paper towel rolls, any kind of boxboard.

You can pick up a recycling bin at any Austin fire station.

For more detailed information on recycling by the City of Austin, see <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sms/recycling.htm>. ❖

Constable's Notebook - September 2007

Constable Bruce Elfant

Your neighbor's dog won't stop barking. Your mechanic charges you for more work than you believe was completed. Your tenant won't pay the rent on time or your landlord won't make reasonable repairs. Disputes between parties not quickly resolved tend to end up in court or can fester, often leading to greater problems.

Conflicts between neighbors have existed as long as mankind. In early times, religious leaders acted as arbiters of disagreements. As groupings of people grew into communities, processes were established to resolve conflicts between citizens. The use of mediation to settle disputes dates back to ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. People who were trusted and respected by all parties mediated disputes ranging from theft to issues of commerce. Over the years, nations established formal justice systems where disputes were decided and enforced by governments.

By the latter half of the 20th century, courts at all levels were overwhelmed by a backlog of that delayed justice and increased litigation costs to

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Recent Postings on the ANA Newsgroup:

Missing Cats/Saba back!

How do you sell a car?

ACL Tickets

Low roar at night?

Making the City Aware of Problems

Ceiling fan repair

To see them all, go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/messages. Not a member? Join the over 700 of your neighbors who already are at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/>

the point of not being a viable method for resolving many disputes. In 1965, a presidential commission directed to study the court system recommended that some cases should be diverted from the courts. New mediation guidelines allowed retired judges, attorneys, and law students to arbitrate disagreements more quickly and at less expense.

Austin Dispute Resolution Center (ADR) was founded in 1983 to help people resolve a variety of issues: neighborhood (zoning), pre- and post-divorce, real estate, landlord/tenant, consumer/merchant, employer/employee, business and small claims, and parent/adolescent. ADR's goals include providing more appropriate processes for certain types of cases, providing a case resolution process that is less costly and more accessible for disputants, and reducing court caseloads.

Mediation sessions cost \$35 for each party, typically last up to four hours, and can be scheduled within 10 to 14 days. Parties must agree to mediate. Mediators do not make judgments, express opinions, or give legal advice; they facilitate communication so the parties can find a solution of their own. ADR mediators conduct about 1,000 mediations per year and report that 85% of mediations are successful. ADR also offers basic mediation training (40 hours), advanced family mediation training (30 hours) and customized training (up to 2 days) for individuals who are interested in becoming state certified mediators.

Travis County judges, in an effort to reduce the number of trials and encourage outcomes agreed to by all

parties, routinely require mediations for certain types of cases to be conducted before litigation can occur. Dispute Resolution Center staff can be reached at 371-0033 or www.austindrc.org.

The Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution (CPPDR) at the University of Texas also provides dispute resolution services for governmental entities, policymakers, and others involved in public policy disputes. CPPDR maintains a website about dispute resolution issues or can be contacted at cppdr@law.utexas.edu. ❖

Baiting for Fire Ants in the Fall

Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist

Baiting for fire ants in the fall can help to reduce the number of fire ants mounds seen in the spring. Tips for fall baiting:

- Make sure your bait is fresh
 - Fire ants pick up bait as food; if bait is rancid, they will not pick it up
- Apply bait when ants are foraging
 - On hot days, fire ants forage for food in the evening when it's cooler
 - If you're unsure if fire ants are foraging, place bait beside a mound and check back after 15 minutes to see if the bait is being picked up
- Broadcasting baits can save time by not having to locate each mound in your yard
 - Broadcasting also helps get smaller mounds that may not be visible
 - Baits applied at lower rates (1–2 pounds per acre) should be applied using a hand held spreader set on the lowest setting

○ Baits applied at rates higher than 1–2 pounds per acre may be applied using a push or drop spreader calibrated according to label instructions

- Do not water baits
 - Wet baits become unattractive to fire ants
 - Apply baits when rain is not expected for at least 24 hours
 - Turn off sprinkler systems
 - Apply baits after dew has burned off the grass
- Organize a community wide fire ant management program
 - Having neighbors bait for fire ants at the same time can help push re-invasion boundaries further out
 - Studies show community management can reduce the number of fire ants within the community, reduce the amount of money spent on fire ant management, and reduce the amount of chemicals placed into the environment

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. ❖

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Dog Talk: Two Topics: Invisible Fencing (IF) and Mouthiness

Cheryl Silver

Invisible Fencing (IF)

My opinion is that this product (IF) should not be used to contain dogs, unless it is used to contain a dog in combination with a physical and secure above-ground fence.

Many dogs will take the "hit" (an electric shock) and run through the IF to pursue something that intrigues them. Terror, such as fear brought on by thunder and lightning, will also cause some dogs to run through the "shock field"—they think they can get away from the monster!

Few dogs will run back into the yard after the escape because they know they will get shocked so your dog will not likely return.

In a yard with only an IF, anyone can come and torment and/or steal your dog. Additionally, dogs who might be running loose can come into your yard, torment your dog that is "trapped" in the yard, while the loose dogs can come and go with impunity.

If you have a dog that will scale a fence or dig under a fence, burying an

IF about 18 inches inside the solid fence and then training your dog to the IF will likely extinguish this escape behavior by keeping the dog from approaching the solid fence.

Mouthiness

Pups are mouthy because they are exploring their world and they are teething—first getting baby teeth and then getting their adult teeth. Some breeds are hardwired to nip at heels their entire lives, such as heelers and other herding breeds.

Pups begin learning to inhibit their bite when they are under 10 weeks of age. They learn from their littermates, their mom and other dogs with which they live. The pup that bites down too hard while nursing will find that mom walks away. Littermates will scream, bite back and/or leave the biter to play alone. That kind of normal feedback begins teaching the pup to control his bite. When a pup is taken from its litter before 8 weeks of age it does not learn this important life lesson, so the people

in the pup's life will be called upon to teach this lesson.

Some people resort to harsh painful actions such as thumping the pup on the face if it bites too hard. I urge people to not do this. The lesson that is learned is that people's hands will hurt you and that is not a constructive lesson.

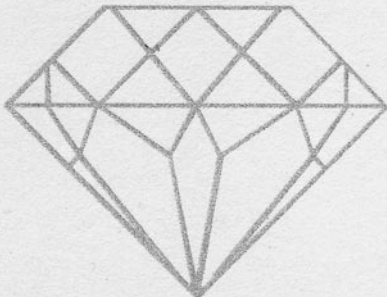
There are a number of options to explore with your pup, but remember, the pup does need things to chew on. Simply picking the pup up immediately with no comment and putting the pup in a safe secure area to play alone (there can be toys there) is one option. In a few minutes the pup should be returned to the social situation. When it bites again, repeat the seclusion. Do this numerous times close together so the pup has a chance to learn the pattern.

To protect furniture from chewing, you can use white stick deodorant on the wood—pup will not like the taste.

Remember, supervise, supervise, supervise. If your pup gets into things she/he shouldn't, hit yourself on the head with a newspaper and say, "I will

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supervise my pup better.” Keep hitting yourself until you learn your lesson.

I am always here to help...never any charge. csilver2@austin.rr.com 454-7219 ❖

The Sandwich Joint

Robin Senor

I grew up back East, and so I'm a stickler for a big, hearty sandwich.

The Sandwich Joint does the big hearty sandwich right. With a huge array of sandwich selections named after Austin institutions such as Devil's Cove (chicken, jalapenos, avocado, salsa, sour cream, and jack cheese), and sandwich stand-bys such as cheesesteaks and chicken cheesesteaks, the Joint aims to please everyone.

They chip all their meats, from chicken to beef. They use some interesting ingredients in every sandwich, and their rolls are large. And while there aren't a huge number of selections on the main menu for vegetarians, there are a few vegetarian sides.

But is it possible to get too *much* meat on a sandwich? It sounds like a paradox, but my Devil's Cove sand-

wich, while pretty tasty, weighed a solid pound and most of it was meat.

Perhaps that's fine if you can finish these giants in one sitting, but anyone who eats big, hearty sandwiches knows that the longer all those juicy nibbles sit in the bun, the less appealing the experience. So saving it for later doesn't really work so well. The good news is you can order half a sandwich, though for not much less than a whole one. The prices are a little high at \$6.99 a sandwich; I imagine they justify that by the amount of meat that goes onto a sandwich.

If you want to check them out, know two things: one, they close at 4 pm and open at 11.

Second, they don't call it a joint for nothing: I've seen some master closets larger than their dining area. So order those sandwiches to go or plan to fight for one of the few tables.

Still, all in all a great addition to the Allandale neighborhood. I'll be back. You can see a full menu at <http://www.joshwillis.net/sandwichjoint.jpg>



The Sandwich Joint does a big hearty sandwich right.

The Sandwich Joint, 5035 Burnet Rd, 524-2917 ❖

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Tribute for Mrs. Camden

Anne Jarriel

It is with a sad heart that we announce the death of Linda Camden who was a dedicated teacher at Gullett Elementary for over 20 years. She retired a few years back to spend time with her grandchildren. She was diagnosed with lung cancer in April. She died Wednesday morning with her son Craig and husband John by her side. Linda asked for a celebration of her life and we think this will be Friday. We'll pass on the information as we get it. Please spread the word to her former students, parents, and friends.

—The Gullett Staff

Dear Friends,

There will not be a formal service for Linda Camden. They are planning a "celebration of life" at their home on Saturday at 6PM that is primarily for family and close friends.

For the Gullett Community we would like to plan some memorial space dedicated to Ms. Camden. John Camden would like to be involved in the planning and implementing. If you have ideas, email gullettpta@yahoo.com. If you would like to make a donation to this project please send it to the Gullett Office made out to Linda Lebo (former secretary and friend). We would also love to gather letters, photos and memo-

ries to give to the family—please send to the office. Gullett will have a dedication ceremony that will include the entire community—we will keep you informed of the time and place. We understand that Ms. Camden was a huge part of making Gullett the school it is today and that she literally touched the lives of hundreds of students and their parents. The family wants the community to be able to show their love and respect for Linda and will be working in the next few weeks to plan this special place at Gullett.

—The Gullett Staff,

6310 Treadwell Blvd., Austin, 78757
Posted to the ANA newsgroup, 9/26/2007 ❖

A Moment in Austin History: 1865

Ed Van de Vort, MA [reprinted from prior issue]

In spite of the turmoil in government, life does go on. People were rebuilding their business enterprises, money was trickling back into the economy. Austin was part of a major development during this period and the establishment of the great cattle drives along the Chisholm Trail. The trail started southeast of San Antonio and came north through Austin and Round Rock and on to the railheads in Kansas. Col. Jessie Driskill was instrumental in helping establish these drives.

Wild cows left over from the Spanish mission herds were all over the brush country in South Texas. These cows were Longhorns and roamed free. They could be rounded up and driven north. That trip took several weeks and cost about ten cents a head. Those cattle could be sold for as much as six dollars a head when they got to Kansas. Many people made a lot of money during this period. This was the beginning of the ranching and cattle industry as we know it today. Mesquite trees were spread into North Texas, when the cattle ate the beans in South Texas and deposited them along the trail.

Another player in the local cattle industry was a woman, Elizabeth Johnson Williams, more commonly known as "Lizzie." She was a school teacher and kept accounts for local ranchers, taking cattle as payment for her services. In a few years she amassed a large herd and became the first woman owner to ride north on the Chisolm Trail. When she married, Lizzie insisted on having Travis County's first recorded pre-nuptial agreement. She became very successful and took annual buying trips to the East for clothes, jewels, furs and other finery. When she died in 1924, the inventory of her estate included, among truckloads of other things, FORTY-FIVE POUNDS OF FEATHERS!! ❖

Gullett Goings On

By Deanna Goodson

School is in full swing. The faculty, staff, students and parents at Gullett are working hard to make this the best year ever. The PTA undertook a No-Frills Fundraiser for the first time, eradicating the need for a PTA membership drive, directory orders, gift-wrap sale and separate request for Spanish.

Gullett is one of the only elementary schools to offer Spanish in all grade levels. Thus far, the No-Frills Fundraiser has been wildly successful. Go, Geckos!

The Cultural Arts Committee has come up with some fantastic programs for our students to enjoy. Just recently, a hot air balloonist performed a demonstration for everyone. In the spring, during February, the Blue Shoe Project will take the children on an historical journey about American Blues music, covering tribal storytellers, gospel, field hollers, and it's influence on blues, jazz, Rock-n-Roll and even hip hop. What a great way for us to celebrate Black History Month!

Our Wellness Committee, which is dedicated to the encouragement and support of student nutrition and fitness through education, building awareness, and special events, received a special accolade from the district last year. This year, they're working on making improvements in our school cafeteria. They also hosted a Walk to School Day on October 3, 2007 and will be holding a special parent education night with the AISD nutritionist on November 15th. We appreciate all their hard work!

Finally, the Gullett Elementary School Carnival will be held on Saturday November 3 from 1-5pm. Tickets are 50 cents apiece and can be used for a variety of activities. Food from fantastic vendors such as Kevin's BBQ, Craig O's Pizza, and Austin's Greek Deli will also be made available from

\$2-\$5. Drinks will be sold for \$1 by volunteers. As always, we welcome all y'all from the neighborhood to stop on by.

For information and updates on the goings-on at Gullett Elementary, we encourage you to visit our home on the web at <http://www.gullettgeckos.org>. ❖

Masquerade Ball

continued from Page 1

To tempt your taste buds, Russell's Bakery and Coffee Bar is serving an assortment of savory and sweet appetizers and hors d'oeuvres to munch between dances as you bid on auction item—from fabulous jewelry to work from local artists and gift certificates for dining at area restaurants and other businesses.

Attendees will vote to award amazing prizes for "Best Costume" and "Best Costume, Couple". Tickets are available in advance only so get them early. To purchase tickets and to see our fantastic auction items online, go to www.allandalereporter.org. For questions or information, please email allandalemasqueradeball@yahoo.com

So dust off those dancing shoes, create a costume, and prepare to have fun! See the ad in this newsletter for more details—minimum age 21. Present tickets at the door for two drink coupons. ANA reminds you to drink responsibly. ❖

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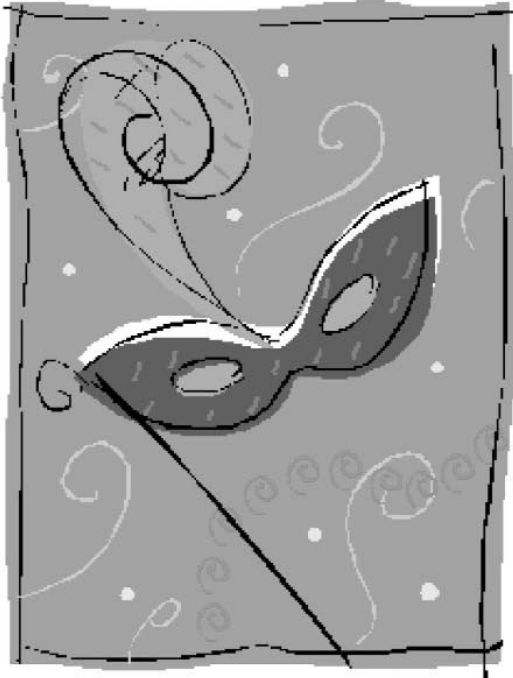


John Keohane
MBA--University of Chicago

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | | |

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